



# A career as a building official

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry – [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

## A DEMAND FOR BUILDING OFFICIALS

There is growing concern whether a sufficient number of new skilled workers will enter the construction industry workforce. This shortfall includes building code officials to serve the regulatory portion of the industry. Building code enforcement may represent a small portion of the overall construction industry, but the need for qualified building officials continues.

## WHAT IS A BUILDING OFFICIAL?

A building official is someone who by knowledge, skills and experience possesses the ability to administer and enforce the building code.

Building officials play a major role in ensuring that all commercial, residential, public assembly and other buildings are constructed in accordance with the State Building Code. The State Building Code address structural stability, fire safety, means of egress (exits), sanitation, energy efficiency, mechanical systems, accessibility and more. It is the building official's responsibility to protect the public health, safety and welfare in relationship to the built environment through effective code enforcement.

Building officials are most often hired by Minnesota municipalities and private inspection firms, but are sometimes hired by construction, architecture or engineering companies.



## WHY BECOME A BUILDING OFFICIAL?

### A growing demand

A recent survey ([www.dli.mn.gov/ccld/pdf/bofficial\\_survey.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/ccld/pdf/bofficial_survey.pdf)) shows that the "typical" Minnesota building official is between 55 and 64 years old and plans to retire sometime within the next 10 years. The same survey indicates that one of the top challenges to the industry in Minnesota is finding qualified staff to fill behind these ongoing retirements.

Many current building officials reported that they had one to three previous construction jobs before becoming a building official, typically making the transition while in their 30s, and most now earning between \$50,000 and \$75,000 annually.

### A rewarding career

Building officials find it rewarding to serve within the industry as a valued and respected professional who helps homeowners, contractors, architects, engineers and others involved with construction. Survey respondents also indicated they would recommend a code enforcement career to others.

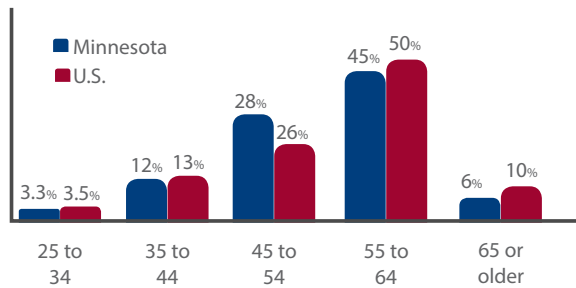
## DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- High school diploma
- Experience in construction
- Formal training and building inspection experience
- Certification as a building official
- ICC Certification
- The ability to interact and communicate effectively

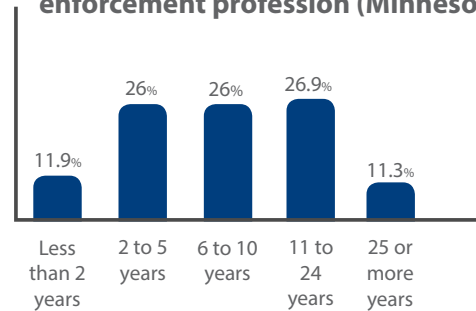
## SURVEY RESULTS

A 2014 survey of Minnesota building officials ([www.dli.mn.gov/ccld/pdf/bofficial\\_survey.pdf](http://www.dli.mn.gov/ccld/pdf/bofficial_survey.pdf)) shows:

**Building code professional age groups**



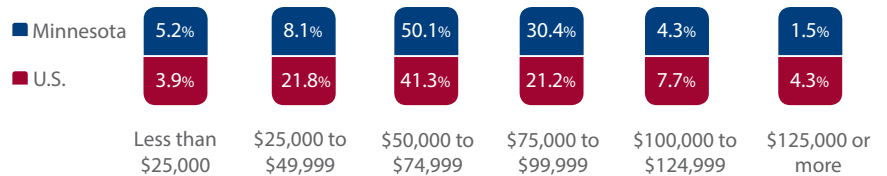
**Plans to leave the building code enforcement profession (Minnesota)**



### Top six recommendations for those interested in becoming a building code professional

- Study the code
- Get construction experience
- Develop strong "people" skills
- Find an internship
- Get a college education
- Get certified

### Average annual salaries for building code professionals



## CHAPTERS OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

- Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO): [www.ambomn.com/index.html](http://www.ambomn.com/index.html)
- 10,000 Lakes Chapter: [www.10klakes.org/index.html](http://www.10klakes.org/index.html)
- Arrowhead Chapter: [www.ambomn.com/default/Other\\_Chapters/ArrowheadChapter/ArrowheadChapter.html](http://www.ambomn.com/default/Other_Chapters/ArrowheadChapter/ArrowheadChapter.html)
- Northwest Chapter: [www.ambomn.com/default/Other\\_Chapters/NWChapter/NWChapter.html](http://www.ambomn.com/default/Other_Chapters/NWChapter/NWChapter.html)
- Southeast Chapter: [www.ambomn.com/default/Other\\_Chapters/SEChapter/SEChapter.html](http://www.ambomn.com/default/Other_Chapters/SEChapter/SEChapter.html)
- Southwest Chapter: [www.ambomn.com/default/Other\\_Chapters/SWChapter/SWChapter.html](http://www.ambomn.com/default/Other_Chapters/SWChapter/SWChapter.html)

## CAREER RESOURCES FOR PROSPECTIVE BUILDING OFFICIALS

- Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry [www.dli.mn.gov/Ccld.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Ccld.asp)
- League of Minnesota Cities [www.lmc.org/page/1/city-jobs.jsp](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/city-jobs.jsp)
- Minnesota government careers <http://mn.gov/mmb/careers/>
- International Code Council [www.iccsafe.org/search\\_gcse/?q=jobs](http://www.iccsafe.org/search_gcse/?q=jobs)
- O\*Net Resource Centre <https://www.onetonline.org/>
- MnSCU Career and Education Resource [www.iseek.org/](http://www.iseek.org/)



### Construction Codes and Licensing Division

Web: [www.dli.mn.gov/ccld/Official.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/ccld/Official.asp)  
Phone: (651) 284-5012 or 1-800-657-3944